

Williams, Deborah

From: Trice, Katherine
Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2005 3:07 PM
Subject: FW: FYI - Please share with Others
Importance: High

FYI

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RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE

July 24, 2005

For more information, contact:
Carol Dyson: (202) 726-4597
Box Office: (202) 889-5901

Ward 7 and 8 Summer Youth Program Produce Show at THE ARC

Multi-Media Training Institute, Inc., --MMTI's Summer Youth program in association with Training Grounds and Building Bridges Across the River will produce "An Evening of Laughter and Praise Comedy" at the new Town Hall Education Arts and Recreation Campus (THEARC) on Thursday, August 11, from 7 to 9 pm., at 1901 Mississippi Ave., SE. The program is hosted by Comedian Sean Sarvis of Heaven 1580 AM, with special musical guest Isaiah Thomas and The Elements of Praise. Comedian Joe Recca, winner of BET's Coming to the Stage, BET Comic View will also perform. This is a show for the entire family with comedians, singers and musicians creating an atmosphere of unity in the East of the River community.

MMTI students from the technical theatre and arts administration training program will participate as technical theatre assistants - working in sound, lighting and as stage hands. MMTI students from the video production training workshop will video document the performance. MMTI's participants are involved in every aspect of the production learning on-the-job valuable skills that will be very valuable to them as present and future leaders in their community.

MMTI's participants were recruited from East Capitol Center for Change, Benning Terrace, H.D. Woodson High School, Covenant House, Parkland Community, Washington View Teen Center, and in the immediate area of THEARC on Mississippi Ave. in Ward 8. "This is an excellent example of what summer programs can do for young people," says Lyn Dyson, President of MMTI.

"I am glad to see the excitement on these young people faces," said "Skip" McMahon, Executive Director of Building Bridges Across the River.

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"These are not just leaders for the future, but our leaders for today," says **Tom Brown, Executive Director of Training Grounds**, a youth entrepreneur and marketing training organization for the young people.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors and youth 12, years of age and under are available at THE ARC Box Office 1901 Mississippi Ave and local Christian Book Stores.

MMTI's program is funded in part by the **United Planning Organization** and the **Department of Employment Services**. Additional support is provided by **Chevron/Texaco Corporation** through the **National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise** and **The DC Commission on the Arts**, **The National Endowment for the Arts**, **Spring Creek Foundation**, **Commonweal Foundation**, **Freddie Mac Foundation**, **Ludacris Foundation**, **The Escheated Estates** and the **Tiger Woods Foundation**.

The 110,000 square foot community center known as **THE ARC (Town Hall Education, Arts and Recreation Campus)** is located in Ward 8 at the corner of Mississippi Ave. SE, between Southern Ave. and Stanton Road. THE ARC brings music, dance, visual arts, performing arts, indoor basketball, healthcare, movies, and a variety of educational programs to the community. Programs are offered by **The Washington Ballet**, **The Levine School of Music**, and **Children's Hospital**, **Parkland Community Center**, **Boys & Girls Clubs**, **Covenant House** and several others.

**640 Buchanan Street, NW, Ste. 107, Washington, DC 20011 Tele: (202)726-4597; Fax (202)726-2853
Email: LA460@aol.com; Website: www.mmtidc.com**